

REMARKS

Claims 4-6, 8-11, 17 and 19-32 are pending in the application. Claims 4-6, 8-11, 17 and 19-22 are withdrawn from further consideration. Claims 1-3 and 12-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as described in paragraph 4 of the Office Action. Claims 12-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as described in paragraph 6 of the Office Action. Claims 23 and 27 are the only independent claims under consideration.

The specification has been amended to place the application in correct idiomatic English and to generally place the application in better U.S. form.

With respect to paragraph 1 of the Office Action, please consider the following. Newly added claim 26 requires, *inter alia*: a) that a number of the plurality of electrodes be not less than three; and b) that the plane substrate comprise a conductive metal substrate. Portion (a) of claim 26 corresponds with species I, whereas portion (b) of claim 26 is described in the specification, for example with respect to Figs. 9 and 10. Newly added claim 32 requires, *inter alia*, that the operating section be operable to: a) tilt; and b) slide. Portion (a) of claim 32 corresponds with species I, whereas portion (b) of claim 32 is involved in embodiment 7. Nevertheless, each of claims 26 and 32 are drawn to species I as discussed above. For this reason, it is respectfully requested that claims 26 and 32 be considered on the merits.

Attached hereto are replacement formal drawings, wherein the sheet number labels of FIGs 1-38 have been deleted. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the outstanding rejections of claims 1-3 and 12-16 are moot, as the claims have been canceled.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 23-32 are novel and patentable over the prior art of record within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103, for the following reasons.

The present invention relates to a multidirectional input device and an electronic apparatus using the same. One aspect of the present invention is drawn to a resistance element layer having more than two electrodes. This aspect is disclosed in the specification, for example, as depicted in Fig. 8.

Newly added independent claim 23 recites a multidirectional input device. The device of

claim 23 comprises, *inter alia*, an insulating substrate, a ring-shaped resistance element layer, a plane substrate, a conductive section, an operating section, and a controller. The ring-shaped resistance element layer of claim 23 is required to be "formed on said insulating substrate," and is required to have "more than two electrodes disposed thereon."

Newly added independent claim 27 recites an electronic apparatus. The apparatus of claim 27 comprises, *inter alia*, a top casing having a through-hole, a flexible insulating substrate, a plane substrate, a controller, and a multidirectional input device having a ring-shaped resistance element layer formed on the flexible insulating substrate, a conductive section disposed on the plane substrate, and an operating section. The ring-shaped resistance element layer of claim 27 is required to have "more than two electrodes disposed thereon."

It is respectfully submitted that Asher fails to teach at least the above-identified limitations.

As described in paragraph 4 of the Office Action, Asher is cited for teaching a "ring shaped resistance element 12 on flexible insulative substrate 10." Nevertheless, Asher fails to teach that the resistor material 12 has more than two electrodes disposed thereon, as required in each of independent claims 23 and 27.

As anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires that each and every element of the claim be disclosed in a prior art reference, *Akzo N.V. v. U.S. Int'l Trade Commission*, 808 F.2d 1471 (Fed. Cir. 1986), based on the foregoing, it is clear that Asher does not anticipate claims 23 or 27.

Furthermore, since claims 24-26 and 28-32 are dependent upon claims 23 and 27, respectively, and therefore include all the limitations thereof, Applicants submit that claims 24-26 and 28-32 additionally are not anticipated by Asher.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 23-32 are not anticipated by Asher within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

It is respectfully submitted that Emery fails to teach the shortcomings of Asher such that a combination of the teachings of Asher and Emery would teach that which is required in claims 23 and 27.

As discussed in paragraph 6 of the Office Action, Emery is relied upon for a teaching of a "tip-casing having through-hole exposing the knob." Specifically, the Office Action indicates that the "casing 30 is disclosed at Fig. 1 of Emery for housing the switch and exposing the knob." Emery is

further relied upon for a teaching of a "flange-preventing 22 and resilient body [that] are disclosed at Fig. 2" to provide "a snap feel and low resistance effect."

Nevertheless, similar to Asher as discussed above, Emery fails to teach a ring-shaped resistance element layer having more than two electrodes disposed thereon, as required in each of independent claims 23 and 27.

Because neither Asher nor Emery teaches a ring-shaped resistance element layer having more than two electrodes disposed thereon, it is respectfully submitted that a combination of Asher in view of Emery fails to teach a ring-shaped resistance element layer having more than two electrodes disposed thereon, as required in each of independent claims 23 and 27.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 23 and 27 would not have been obvious over the combination of Asher in view of Emery within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

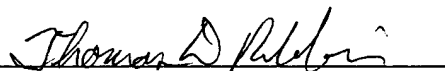
Furthermore, since claims 24-26 and 28-32 are dependent upon claims 23 and 27, respectively, and therefore include all the limitations thereof, Applicants submit that claims 24-26 and 28-32 additionally are patentable over the combination of Asher in view of Emery.

Having fully and completely responded to the Office Action, Applicants submit that all of the claims under consideration are now in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited.

If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

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